

February
2008



OBSERVER

February Meeting

February 20, 2008 6:30PM

Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium

3624 N. 74th E. Ave.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tamara Green

Due to a conflict with the schedule at TCC for February, we will not hold our regular monthly meeting there this month. Instead, our "public meeting" will be our Lunar Eclipse viewing event to be held at TASM on Wednesday, Feb 20.

"Dark Shadows II", our first big public event for the year, will be a treat not only for the public, but also for all of us, as a total lunar eclipse is quite a thing to see, and there will not be another one (at least one that is visible from our location) until December of 2010, nearly three years away! And of course, volunteers with telescopes or binoculars will be greatly appreciated, as well as one or two to help man the ACT information table.

The viewing portion of the event will be in the TASM employees' parking lot, located on the South end of Hangar One. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 6:00 PM to set up their scopes, as the event opens to the public at 6:30 PM. TASM will be running three shortened versions of its popular planetarium shows, admission to these is \$3 per person aged 4 and up, under 4 free if on a parent or other adult guardian's lap. If you get a chance to see one of these shows, do so! It will be well worth it!

This event promises to be a fun evening for one and all, so the more of you who come to enjoy it, the better! If you would like to volunteer, you may e-mail me at grumpyoldcow2005@yahoo.com, or call me at 918-851-1213. (This is my cell phone, and I am never without it, so if I don't answer right away, leave me a message and I will get back to you shortly.) Hope to see you there!

For a nice little break, we will be having our first members-only star party at our observatory on Fri, Feb 29. This will give us an opportunity to just relax and do some astronomy and have fun. Even though there may (or may not) be a group scheduled, this one will NOT be open to the general public. So if you are looking for an opportunity to just come out to our observatory for a nice relaxing night with friends under the stars, mark your calendars for this one!

Don't forget our March and April activities! Our March (public) star party is Fri, Mar 7, with Fri, Mar 14 being our meeting at TCC. I know these are only one week apart, but due to the Friday closest to Full Moon being Good Friday, I had to make this slight adjustment in the 2008 meeting schedule to allow for this, so that our members can spend the Easter Weekend with their families. Our members-only star party will be on Fri, Mar 28.

For April, our (public) star party is Fri, Apr 4. Our annual Messier Marathon at TUVA will be on Sat-Sun, Apr 5-6. (More on this event later.) Our meeting at TCC is on Fri, Apr 18, and our members-only star party on Fri, Apr 25.

Hope to see you all there!

Clear Skies and Good Observing to All,

Tamara

Lands Tidbits – by *John Land* Feb, 2008

Our membership rates for 2007 – 2008 will be as follows.

Adults - \$ 35 per year includes Astronomical League Membership

Sr. Adult discount \$25 per year for those 65 or older includes Astronomical League Membership

Students \$ 15 without League membership.

Students \$ 20 **with League membership.**

The regular membership allows all members in the family to participate in club events but only ONE voting membership and one Astronomical League membership.

If an **additional member of the family** would like to join with voting rights the additional cost is \$15.

Additional League memberships within a family are \$ 5 each.

Magazine Subscriptions: If your magazines are coming up for renewal, try to **save the mailing label** or renewal form you get in the mail. Do NOT mail renewals back to the magazine!

To get the club discount you must go through the club group rate.

Astronomy is \$ 34 for 1 year or \$ 60 for 2 years. www.astronomy.com

Sky & Telescope is \$33 / yr www.skyandtelescope.com

Sky and Telescope also offers a 10% discount on their products.

Note: You may **renew** your **Sky & Telescope subscription** directly with out having to mail in the subscriptions to the club. **NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS must still be sent to the club treasurer.** Forms are available on the website.

We now have an automated on line registration form on the website for new AND renewal memberships plus magazine subscriptions. You simply type in your information and hit send to submit the information.

<http://www.astrotulsa.com/Club/join.asp>

You can then **print a copy of the form and mail in your check.**

Astronomy Club of Tulsa - 25209 E 62nd St – Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Address Corrections- Email changes – Questions:

You may forward questions to the club by going to our club website and Fill out an online form or just click on John Land and send an email. Please leave a clear subject line and message with your name, phone number, your question – along with email



The Astronomy Club of Tulsa and Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium
Present

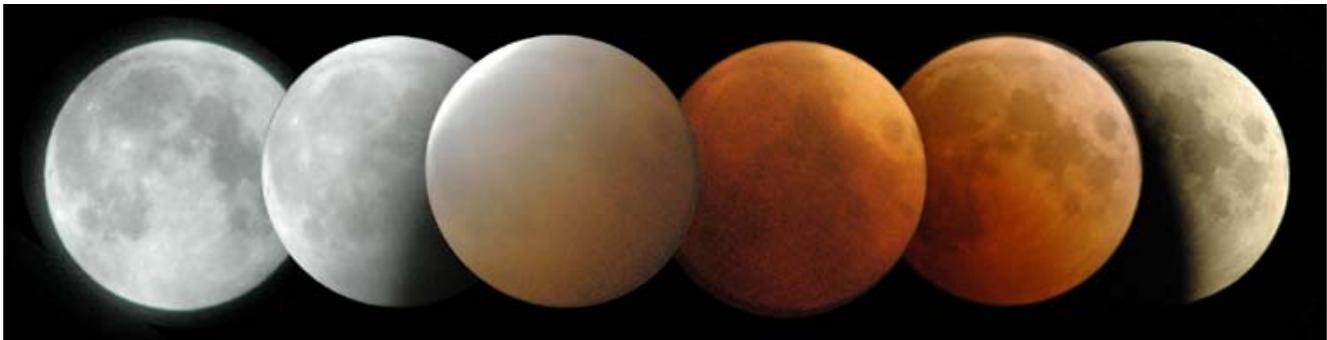
DARK SHADOWS II, A viewing of the Total Lunar Eclipse

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Tulsa Air and Space Museum

3624 N 71st St., (Just East of the Tulsa Zoo Entrance on 36th St. N.)



The Astronomy Club of Tulsa and Tulsa Air and Space Museum invite you for an evening of viewing the spectacular total lunar eclipse and other night sky wonders through telescopes. TASM will present short versions of their popular planetarium shows as well, so bring your families for an unforgettable evening!

Admission to the eclipse viewing is free, but any donations to the Astronomy Club of Tulsa will be appreciated. Prices for the planetarium shows are \$3 for ages 4 and up, under 4 free if sitting on a parent or other adult guardian's lap.

For more information, go to www.astrotulsa.com or www.tulsaairandspacemuseum.com

Driving Directions: www.tulsaairandspacemuseum.com/visitor.asp

“Astro-Surfing” – Astronomy on the Internet

by D. J. Karcher

#2 – Awesome Astrophotography



There is an amazing amount of amateur and professional astrophotography available for visual stimulation on those cloudy nights when you can't set up your scope for a first hand view of the universe. Astronomers seem to be a group of folks that aren't satisfied unless they can share their experiences with anyone who has an interest in the stars and planets (and, if the truth be known, we don't mind showing off a bit moreover). What follows, is a compilation of some of my favorite internet sites for astrophotography, both CCD & webcam based. This list merely scratches the surface of what's available and is by no means a "best of" compilation – it is simply a sampling of what I've found while wandering the net – separated by professional and amateur sites. If anyone knows of other good astrophotography sites, I'd like to hear about them for a follow-up later along with other great sites I've found.

Professional Astrophotography (...your tax dollars at work).

Hubble Space Telescope (<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/>) – Doesn't get any better than this! I prefer to search the news release archives instead of the fancier "Gallery" page as you can obtain images and background information at the same time

NOAO - (http://www.noao.edu/image_gallery/) – The National Optical Astronomy Observatory was formed in 1982 to consolidate all AURA-managed ground-based astronomical observatories under a single Director. NOAO also represents the US astronomical community in the International Gemini Project through its new NOAO Gemini Science Center. A mother lode of images from some of the largest & most advanced telescopes in the world is presented here.

Amateur Astrophotography (...wow)!

The Universe in Color (<http://www.robgendlerastropics.com/>) – I almost hesitate to call Robert Gendler an amateur, but he does have a day job as a physician in Connecticut. Published frequently in Sky & Telescope & Astronomy magazines, Bob Gendler's work is legendary.

High Resolution Lunar & Planetary Imaging (<http://users.bigpond.net.au/metaplace/home.html>) – Site run by Zac Pujic, an Australian amateur, a master of webcam image processing and frequently featured on Chuck Wood's LPOD site.

Kitt Peak Observing Program (<http://www.noao.edu/outreach/aop/observers/bestof.html>) - The Advanced Observing Program is an experience available to the public at the Kitt Peak Visitor Center. With no technical knowledge needed, guests are able to take extremely high-quality CCD images using the 20" and 16" RC Optical Systems Ritchey-Chretien's, Meade Lx200, Takahashi FSO-106 and 76mm TeleVue (APO) refractor Visitor Center Telescopes. This site features the "Best Images" taken by visitors.

Gallagher Home (<http://web.olp.net/vgallagher-olp/>) – No review would be complete without our own Rod Galagher's wonderful contribution – Thanks for sharing, Rod.

Simple Dobsonian Cart

by John Land

After buying a 10-inch Dobsonian I soon found it to be a bit awkward moving it around to where I wanted to observe. My driveway runs North and South but trees and buildings block the view East or West, so I have to move my telescope to different places for the best views. After seeing some adds for expensive telescope carts, I decided to try to make my own cart. Materials: One premium grade 2 by four, Brass hinge, Three wide lawn mower deck wheels. Two 6 inch long 1/2 inch bolts and one 8 inch and plus nuts and washers.

After cutting the 2 by 4 to into two 4-foot lengths, I attached the hinge on one end. I spread the legs into a narrow "A" frame. Removing the telescope from its base, I positioned the base and spread the legs so that the base legs of the Dob caught the sides of the boards. Be sure to leave about a foot in the front for the wheel assembly. After positioning the wheels in the approximate places and making sure everything fit, I nailed a board across the base to make the "A" frame stable.

I chose the wide lawn mower deck wheels about \$ 12 each at Lowe's. They have narrow ones but I thought this might be more stable for moving on grass. I had to replace the bolts that came with the wheels with longer 1/2-inch bolts. An 8 inch in the front and two 6 inch in the back. I carefully measured the wheel holes to give clearance for the wheels to roll on grass. Then drilled 1/2-inch holes at an angle so that the wheels would roll straight when pulled along.

So far it has worked great. I attached a rope on the front end and just lift it a bit to get in rolling in the right direction. A bungee cord helps stabilized the scope. But its does need an extra hand to steady it on grass. I can roll it about my driveway with ease and rolls around the yard well also. I had in mind a more elaborate project but this one has worked so well I didn't see the need to improve on it. I may add some clamps at the bottom to hold the base more firmly and plan to make an equipment deck on the back.

John Land



EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Meade 8" LXD300

Meade Model 203SC (203 mm) Schmidt-Cassegrain 8" - F-10 scope
Meade Series 3000 Plossl 9.5mm lens
Meade Super Plossl 26mm lens
6x30mm spotting scope
LXDLXD 300 Equatorial Mount and Tripod with counter weights

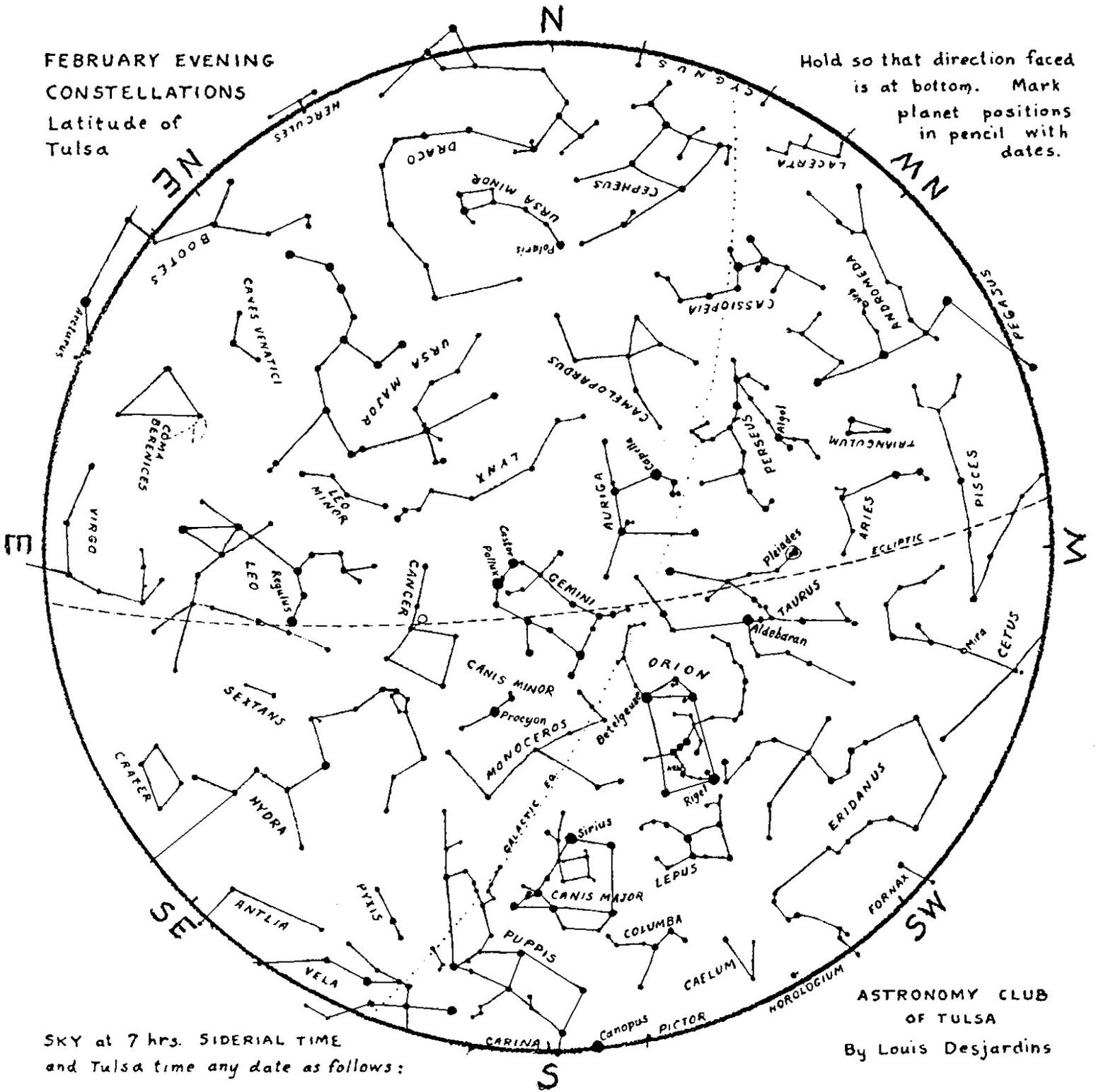
\$575 or make reasonable offer

Debbie Walters scriptdeb@hotmail.com



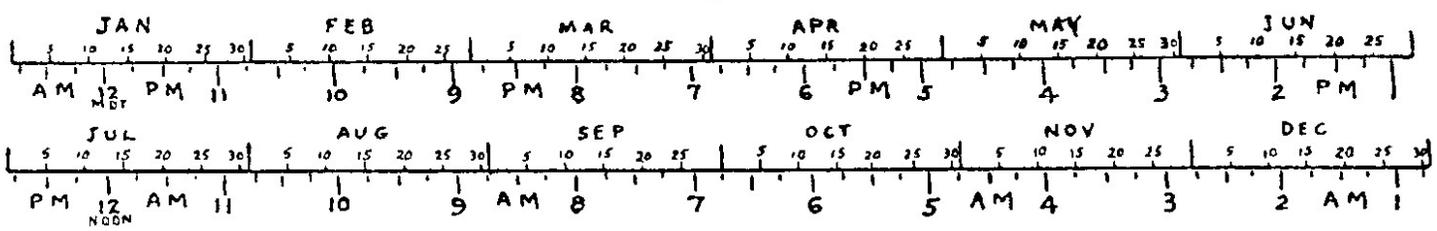
FEBRUARY EVENING
CONSTELLATIONS
Latitude of
Tulsa

Hold so that direction faced
is at bottom. Mark
planet positions
in pencil with
dates.



SKY at 7 hrs. SIDERIAL TIME
and Tulsa time any date as follows:

ASTRONOMY CLUB
OF TULSA
By Louis Desjardins



Thanks to Jim Miller for scanning the original map.

CLUB OFFICERS

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
President	Tamara Green	918-851-1213
Vice-President	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Treasurer	John Land	918-357-1759
Secretary	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

NAME	PHONE
Ann Bruun	918-834-0757
Steve Chapman	918-342-1643
Rod Gallagher	918-369-3827
Owen Green	918-851-1213
Jim Miller	918-627-4551
Richie Shroff	918-835-3565
Bill Steen	918-251-3062
Tony White	918-258-1221

APPOINTED STAFF

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
RMCC Facility Manager	Craig Davis	918-252-1781
Membership Chairman	John Land	918-357-1759
Observing Chairman	David Stine	918-834-1310
New Members	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Observatory Director	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477
Webmaster	Richard Alford	918-855-9986
Newsletter Editor	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Night Sky Network	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Astronomy Club of Tulsa membership (\$35/year) includes membership in the Astronomical League and subscription to ACT's "Observer" and AL's "Reflector". "Astronomy" (\$34/year) and "Sky and Telescope" (\$33/year) are also available through the club. For more information contact John Land at 918-357-1759. Permission is hereby granted to reprint from this publication provided credit is given to the original author and the Astronomy Club of Tulsa Observer is identified as the source.

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa is a member of the Astronomical League and the Night Sky Network



<http://www.astroleague.org>

<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

ACT welcomes your questions, suggestions, comments, and submissions for publication.

Please send all inquiries to Newsletter@astrotulsa.com